

ESJ LIBRARY
Mandatory Report
Case # NLJ 96-308
Document # 89

FLASH

SENT
WHCA

~~SECRET~~

OLS 929

1967 APR 21 23 25

(4)

*****ZZ YEKADS
DE YEKADL 750 1112305
Z 212304Z ZYH
FM CIA
TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM (FLASH)
ZEM
SECRET CITE CIA/SPERATIONS CENTER 60750
NO FOREIGN DISSEM/BACKGROUND USE ONLY
OCI NO. 0806/67
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
21 APRIL 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM
MILITARY TAKEOVER IN GREECE
(ADDENDUM TO SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 3--1700 EST)

1. KING CONSTANTINE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR TALBOT THAT HE WAS FORCED INTO COOPERATION WITH THE MILITARY JUNTA NOW IN POWER IN ATHENS. HE STATED THAT HE ONLY ACCEPTED THE NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER A STORMY FIVE-HOUR SESSION WITH COUP LEADERS, AND CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "STUPID, ULTRA-RIGHT-WING BASTARDS, WHO, HAVING GAINED CONTRL OF TANKS, HAVE BROUGHT DISASTER TO GREECE." HE CLAIMS THAT HE CONSIDERED ORDERING LOYAL TROOPS TO FIRE ON THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AT THE PALACE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, BUT ABANDONED THE IDEA, REALIZING THAT HIS PALACE WAS SURROUNDED BY TANKS AND OTHER ARMOR MANNED BY TROOPS LOYAL TO THE JUNTA.

2. THE KING HAS ASKED TALBOT WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY US MARINES COULD BE LANDED TO HELP HIM AND "HIS GENERALS" RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL; HE ASSERTS THAT GREEK TROOPS WOULD NOT FIRE ON US PERSONNEL.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
JUNE 1999

3. CONSTANTINE BELIEVES THAT GHQ CHIEF SPANDIDAKIS KNEW "IN GENERAL" ABOUT THE PLANNED CUP, BUT WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN IT WAS IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT HIS GO-AHEAD. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, SPANDIDAKIS AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUNTA IN ASSUMING THE FIGUREHEAD POST OF DEPUTY PREMIER. THE KING IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT AND QUERIED AMBASSADOR TALBOT ABOUT PROVIDING HELICOPTERS TO EVACUATE THE ROYAL FAMILY FROM HIS PALACE AT TATOI, NORTHWEST OF ATHENS.

4. THE KING HAS ALSO ASKED TALBOT TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO "INSIST" THAT IT LIMIT ITSELF TO MAINTAINING ORDER AND FOLLOW ORDERS OF THE KING. TALBOT HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND INTENDS TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE NORMAL LIFE.

GP-1

390

~~SECRET~~

NNNN